

Strange Theatre put across the message about fireworks



An informative play about the dangers of misusing fireworks is being performed for pupils in several Edinburgh secondary schools in the run-up to Bonfire Night.

'TOAST' is a powerful 30 minute drama which shows pupils how dangerous fireworks can be, as well as airing issues such as peer pressure, bullying and managing aggression.

It was originally commissioned by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in Northern Ireland, was adapted for Edinburgh and is being staged by the Strange Theatre Company.

The production involves two actors playing 11 different characters, with the scene shifting between a hospital, a home, a school and a housing estate. The principal character is drawn into an ill-fated escapade with stolen fireworks, with ultimately tragic consequences.

The weeks leading up to Bonfire Night are traditionally a time of increased complaints to police about antisocial behaviour and noise relating to fireworks.



Vice-Convener of
Health, Social
Care & Housing –
Cammy Day

Councillor Cammy Day, Community Safety leader, said: "Bonfire Night is great fun and families enjoy the spectacle of fireworks as the nights get darker. However, fireworks can be

extremely dangerous if handled improperly.

“The play ‘Toast’ is an excellent way of helping young people understand the risks and dangers of misusing fireworks.”

Community Safety Manager for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, Steve Harkins, said: “As the service gears up for one of their busiest nights of the year we are urging parents and carers to be mindful of the potential risks from fireworks and the need to heed fire safety advice to ensure this year’s Bonfire Night celebrations stay safe.

“We work closely with partners including the City of Edinburgh Council to deliver fire safety advice to schoolchildren across the area and TOAST, which highlights the dangers associated with fireworks, is an excellent example of this type of initiative.”

The play will be performed at Holyrood RC High School and Broughton High School tomorrow Thursday 1 November and Leith Academy and Castlebrae High School on Friday 2 November 2012.